

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1-4 and 6 are allowable in the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claim 5 will have been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 6 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes that claim 5 was rejected in the Official Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §112, second paragraph. Applicant submits that these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections.

Applicant notes that the only remaining claims are claims 1-4 and 6, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In regard to the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 1-4 and 6 in the Official Action, Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that the prior art fails to teach certain features of these claims. However, Applicant wishes to make clear that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art. Thus the reasons for allowance should not be limited to those mentioned by the Examiner.

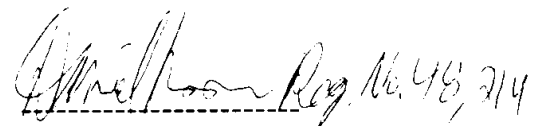
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shinji TSUKAMOTO

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Bernstein", followed by the text "Reg. No. 48, 214" written in a similar cursive style.

Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191